



Okanagan Indian Band

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EDUCATION BULLETIN

Date: March 31, 2020

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A letter to parents and students

All OKIB education buildings (snc'c'amala?tn | ckwu kw'lap il sk'kw'ilt na? 'xax'xap | nkmaplqs i? sn'mamaya?tn i? kl sqilxwtət) will remain closed indefinitely.

This has been a very difficult time for all of us, as we learn to work virtually, from the safety of our kitchen tables. We have been advised by the First Nations School Association that all schools will likely be closed for the remainder of the school year.

Teachers and staff are using this week to prepare classes and homework for the students but the eventual goal is to provide online learning opportunities for all students, from kindergarten through to grade seven, as soon as possible. I am sure many of you are wondering what that will look like and may be concerned about the added responsibility you will have at home for ensuring that your child receives a rewarding education. However, the students will likely be excited at the idea of having their classes beamed to them on a tablet or laptop. Most children today seem quite skilled at utilizing technology to their benefit so expect they will be helping you as much as you help them.

The language and culture instructors are also working to create a virtual learning space for the children to practice the Okanagan language and experience the history and culture of their people. This will be uncharted territory for most teachers and staff so please appreciate that they are all trying their best, given the situation. With only three months remaining until the end of the school year, making the most of a challenging situation is the best option.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's teacher, or the Vice Principal (Mrs. Saddleman-Joe) or myself (Gareth Jones).

Stay well, stay home, and stay safe.

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